

Island Free Library

BLOCK ISLAND, RHODE ISLAND 02807

December 27, 2002

Karen Mellor, Library Program Specialist
Office of Library and Information Services
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Karen:

A little more than a year has passed since the Island Free Library reopened in a renovated building with a new addition. The process of planning and funding the project was a good example of how the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) partners with local libraries. It required time, patience, and a substantial investment. The final result remains a source of immense community pride.

Local citizens have expressed their approval for the building project in various ways. "You've kept the same friendly and homey atmosphere." "I can't tell where the addition was attached." "I like having the Block Island Collection accessible." "The 'new' Library is our favorite Island meeting place." And to sum up the public's joy of the library space was a child's question to his parent at closing time, "Do we have to leave?"

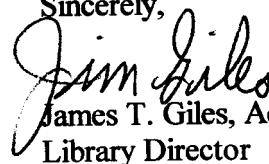
The openness of the Library floor plan promotes its ease of use. Spaces are clearly set aside for quiet reading, children's services, personal computer use, selecting new books and audiovisual works, reference, meetings, and other library services. Prior to the project, there was no meeting room space and the library's services competed with each other for the same space. Personal computers (PC's), for example, were everywhere and often intrusive to library users.

Now twelve PC's are located in an Adult Computer Area (7) and a Kids' Computer Room (5). Usage of the PC's has increased 133 per cent and the public's other uses of the Library have not been interrupted.

The Island Free Library Building Project would not have been possible without the Rhode Island's Public Library Construction Reimbursement Program, which OLIS administers. The State's Funding Agreement, \$797,995 plus interest for the Project, was essential to its inception and completion.

The Trustees, Library staff, and I will be forever grateful for the guidance that you and earlier on, Dorothy Frechette, gave us throughout the Project. You were always accessible to resolve questions that were raised about the process and the funding.

Sincerely,


James T. Giles, Administrative
Library Director

Cc Lonni Todd, Library Director
Kathryn Marcoux, Chair, Library Board of Trustees